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09/827,801	04/06/2001	Murali Rajagopalan	5222-033-RE	5361

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EXAMINER

CHEN, VIVIAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1787

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11/09/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ADVISORY ACTION

1. Claims 14, 23 have been cancelled by Applicant.
2. As correctly noted by Applicant, claims 7 and 10 are dependent on claims 1 and 5 (and not claim 3). Therefore, the claim listings have been corrected to reflect the proper claimed dependencies.

Claim 6 was inadvertently listed in both the allowed and rejected claims. The listing of claim 6 as a rejected claim is a typographical error.

Claim 10/1 was inadvertently listed as an allowable claim. Claim 10 (as dependent on either claims 1 and 5) were intended to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

However, the grounds of rejection have not changed.

Response to Proposed Amendments

3. The proposed amendments will **NOT** be entered because they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. The proposed amendments to claims 7, 10 would raise new issues under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

For further details, please refer to the "Response to Arguments" below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

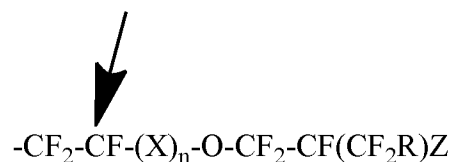
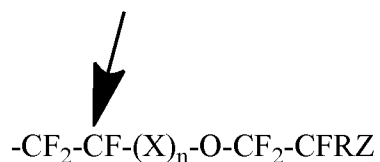
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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5. Claims 3, 4, 7/1, 7/5, 8-9, 10, 11/3, 17/3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention,

for the reasons indicated in the previous Office Action.

Claim 3 is vague and indefinite because in the first and second molecular units, the second carbon from the left is missing a substituent or a bond. Said carbon (e.g., as denoted by the arrows in the first formula and the second formula) is only bonded to three atoms -- i.e., a first bond to the leftmost carbon atom, a second bond to one fluorine atom, and a third bond to the first oxygen atom in a series of ether groups as specified by X -- and not four atoms, as required for carbon atoms. In the first and second formulae in the claim, the fourth bond for the second carbon from the left is not specified.



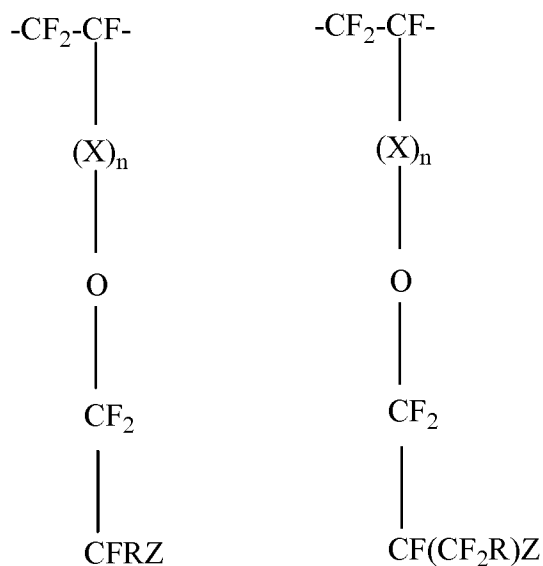
Claim 10 is vague and indefinite because it is unclear whether the first and second molecular units are supposed to be pendent groups hanging from a carbon backbone or terminal groups at the end of the carbon chain. The third recited molecular unit is clearly a terminal group because it has only one available bond. However, it is unclear from the first and second molecular units as depicted whether the specified molecular units are terminal or pendent units. If the first and second molecular units are meant to be terminal groups at the end of the carbon

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chain, then the chemical formulae for the first and second molecular units are unclear and confusing because the substituent on the second from the leftmost carbon atom is not specified -- i.e., the vertical bond line apparently connects with another unidentified substituent group (as denoted by the question marks in the formulae below) that was somehow omitted from the claim.



However, if the first and second molecular units are meant to be *pendant groups* hanging off the carbon backbone of the fluoropolymer, then it should be made clear by using a chemical formula which more clearly represents the molecular units' relationship to the carbon backbone of the fluoropolymer (e.g., see the polymeric formula of claim 7 and see below), especially given that the disclosure as originally filed discloses both pendant and terminal functional groups in the disclosed fluoropolymers.



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Claim 7 is vague and indefinite because it currently contains two different chemical formulas for the claimed fluoropolymer -- i.e., the first formula is not properly marked with brackets to indicate deletion.

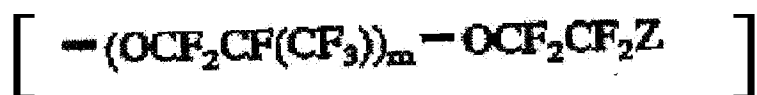
Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 10/8/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(A) Applicant argues that the proposed amendments to claims 3, 7, 10 have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The proposed amendments to claim 3 appear to address the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, with respect to that particular claim.

However, the use of brackets to indicate deletions of chemical formulas in claims 7 and 10 is unclear and confusing because the brackets do not clearly denote the subject matter to be deleted. Instead, the brackets appear to surround blank lines and not the chemical formulas themselves; therefore, it is unclear what portion (or how many) of the chemical formulas are to be deleted. In particular, in claim 10, because of the ambiguous bracketing, it is unclear whether the deletion is intended to encompass just the last formula



or whether all three formulas are to be deleted.

7. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 11/1, 11/5, 12-13, 15-16, 17/5, 18-22, 24-26 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to disclose a golf ball wherein: (a) the cover layer of the golf ball comprises the recited functionalized fluoropolymer (claim 1); (b) both at least one coating layer and the cover layer of the golf ball comprises the recited functionalized fluoropolymer (claim 5); (c) the cover layer of the golf ball comprises the recited functionalized fluoropolymer terpolymer (claim 6); (d) a method utilizes the recited functionalized terpolymer fluoropolymer to form the cover layer of golf ball (claim 18); (e) a method utilizes the recited functionalized terpolymer fluoropolymer terpolymer to form the cover layer of golf ball (claim 22); (f) the cover layer of the golf ball is covered with a coating comprising the recited functionalized fluoropolymer terpolymer (claim 25); (g) both at least one coating layer and the cover layer of the golf ball comprises the recited functionalized fluoropolymer terpolymer (claim 26). MORGAN ET AL and CHAPMAN, Jr. ET AL fail to disclose golf balls wherein the recited functional fluoropolymer forms a layer which is a structural element of the ball.

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Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivian Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1506. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho, can be reached on (571) 272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

The General Information telephone number for Technology Center 1700 is (571) 272-1700.

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November 2, 2010

/Vivian Chen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1787